

Ad hoc Meeting ADB(M)053

Minutes ADB(M)053- MoM

Date of the Meeting..... : 23 June 2021
Time : 16:00-17:00
Place..... : WebEx

Board Members and other participants

SJU Members	Representative		
European Union represented by the European Commission (EC)	Mr Henrik Hololei	Member	
	Ms Christine Berg	Observer	
	Mr Marco de Sciscio	Observer	
	Mr Octavian Vasile	Observer	
	Mr Erki Must	Observer	
EUROCONTROL	Mr Eamonn Brennan	Member	
	Mr Philippe Merlo	Alternate	
Airbus	Mr Bruno Darboux	Member	
	Mr Hugues de Beco	Alternate	
AT-ONE	Mr Dirk Kügler	Member	
B4 Consortium	Ms Lubos Hlinovsky	Alternate	
COOPANS	Mr Robert Schneebauer	Member	
Dassault	Mr Alain Boucher	Member	
DFS	Mr Gerhard Tauss	Alternate	
DSNA	Mr Philippe Barnola	Alternate	
ENAIRE	Ms Mariluz de Mateo	Alternate	
ENAV	Mr Alessandro Ghilari	Member	
Frequentis SESAR Partners	Mr Michael Holzbauer	Member	
Honeywell	Mr George Papageorgiou	Alternate	
INDRA	Mr Rafael Gallego	Member	
	Mr Ramon Tarrech	Alternate	
Leonardo	Mr Luigi Iacometta	Member	
NATMIG	Mr Trond Bakken	Alternate	
NATS	Ms Alison Roberts	Observer	
SEAC	Mr Frank Poetsch	Member	
Skyguide	Mr Thomas Buchanan	Member	
Thales Air System SAS	Mr Luc Lallouette	Member	
Thales Avionics SAS	Mr Pascal Combe	Alternate	

Stakeholder representatives	Representative		
Military / European Defence Agency (EDA)	Mr Eric Labourdette	excused	
	Mr Christophe Vivier	Observer	
Civil users of airspace (AU)	Mr Giancarlo Buono	Member	
Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP)	Ms Tanja Grobotek	Member	
Equipment manufacturers (EM)	Mr Vincent de Vroey	Member	
Airports (APT)	Mr Aidan Flanagan	Alternate	
Staff in the ATM sector (STAFF)	Mr Michele Altieri	excused	
Scientific community (SC)	Mr Peter Hecker	Member	
	Mr Jacco Hoekstra	Alternate	

Permanent Observers

European Commission - Directorate General for Research and Innovation	Jane Amilhat	Observer	
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Permanent representatives

Representative

SJU Executive Director	Mr Florian Guillermet		
SJU Deputy Executive Director	Mr Peter Hotham		
SJU Chief Financial Officer	Mr Richard Frizon		
SJU Chief Administration Affairs	Mr José Calvo Fresno		
SJU Internal Audit Capability	Mrs Véronique Haarsma		
Secretary of the Board	Mrs Ilaria Vazzoler		

Item 1 Introduction

The Chairperson, Mr Hololei, welcomed the Board Members to the 53rd Meeting of the SJU Administrative Board, an ad hoc meeting to officially acknowledge the resignations of Mr Guillermet from the position of Executive Director of the SESAR Joint Undertaking.

Mr Hololei also announced that Mr Gallego and Mr Lallouette are participating for the last time to the Board meeting because they are going to retire.

Mr Gallego was appointed as main representative of INDRA since the beginning of the SESAR programme in 2009 and actively contributed since the beginning. Mr Lallouette started one year later as alternate, and became subsequently the main representative of Thales and has always effectively contributed to the SESAR project and the work of the Administrative Board.

The Chairperson expressed great appreciation for the support and drive to both representatives of the ground manufacturers industry in the partnership.

He informed the Members that NATS and EDA representatives could not attend the meeting and were replaced by Ms Alison Roberts (observer) and by Mr Christophe Vivier (observer) respectively.

Verification of the voting quorum

- ▷ The quorum was verified, on the basis of the distribution of voting rights reported in the decision ADB(D)08-2021 adopted by Written Procedure on 26 April 2021.

Adoption of the agenda

No Board Members proposed additional changes to the Agenda.

- ▷ The Board adopted the Agenda.

Disclosure of conflicts of interests

The Chairperson reminded the participants of their obligation to declare any real or potential conflict of interest on any agenda item. Board Members and participants were required to inform the Secretary of the Board in advance of the meeting about any conflict of interests.

- ▷ The Chairperson noted that no conflict of interest was declared on any agenda item.

Mr Hololei provided an update on the most important developments on the Commission's side since the last meeting.

Update on SES2+

Mr Hololei reported that the Member States have adopted their general approach, which is the basis for the negotiations in the Council. The European Parliament has voted the amendments and has adopted their position.

Member States' general approach was very far from the original ambitions. The EC is working to recover the original ambitions and it is grateful to the EP for being also very ambitious.

The negotiations in the Parliament and Council are going to be challenging. The first meeting will be convened by the Slovenian presidency in mid-July; meetings are planned to continue throughout the autumn. An agreement is likely to be reached under the French presidency. The EC will continue working hard to help the negotiators to arrive to a true reform.

Air Traffic

The air traffic figures are still very far from 2019 figures but the forecast shows a slow increase in the previous weeks.

The Digital Covid Certificate will contribute to the recovery, in particular for summer traffic. It will become official on the 1 July and every Member State has the obligation to accept it. However, Member States might add restrictions to those set by the Digital Covid Certificate, according to their specific epidemiological situation.

The EC also aims at restoring international air travelling with the US, but there are still some obstacles to be removed before having an adequacy decision regarding the applicability of Digital Certificate overseas. Air travel with Asian countries also remains difficult for the time being.

Mr Brennan (EUROCONTROL) continued by saying that recovery started to be seen with 20 000 flights of Friday 18 June, the highest figure since more than 1 year. Eurocontrol is anticipating 25 000 flights, or 70% of the Network, by the end of July.

Mr Brennan commented that it can be noticed an introduction of capacity by low cost, e.g. Ryanair is operating 1400 flights per day. Other companies are adopting more conservative strategies.

Flights booking for June is still low, but for September/October appears higher than in 2019.

Long haul travel still is difficult and it is not expected to resume before November 2021 for Asia, January 2022 for Australia.

Update on SESAR 3

Mr Hololei mentioned that two workshops for the future Members had already been organised and a third one is scheduled on the 8 July: this is dedicated to gather feedbacks from the future Members on how the preparation for new partnership agreement is going.

In order to ensure transparency, the EC is planning a public information session (to take place in September) on the SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking for the wider public and for organisations who had not signed up to become founding Members.

He reported that in the meantime the work continues in the Council's Research Working Party on the process of adopting the Single Basic Act providing legal basis for all the future Joint Undertakings.

In parallel the European Parliament is working to establish their opinion to be delivered before the Council adopts the Council regulation for the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe.

Mr Must (DG MOVE) provided an overview of the state of preparations for the SESAR 3 JU. He stated that the section that concerns SESAR 3 does not present controversial issues and is advancing according to plan. However the overall preparation of the SBA is advancing with a certain delay and the estimated date for its adoption is mid-October. This means that the preparation of the Governance might only start in September.

The workshop of 8th July will provide more details about the negotiations status.

EC asked Council permission to share the SBA text with candidate Members by 30 June and will inform the Members accordingly.

▷ Conclusions on item 1

- The Board took note of the information provided by the Mr Hololei, Mr Brennan, and DG colleagues.

Item 2 Resignation of the SJU Executive Director

In line with the SJU Statutes and the Rules of Procedure of the Administrative Board, the Chairperson informed the Board Members that on 3 June 2021, he has received a resignation request from Florian.

He invited the ADB to take note of Florian's departure as of 4 July 2021.

▷ Conclusions on item 2

The Board took note of the request of resignation of the Executive Director and the ADB mandated the Chairperson to send Mr Guillermet a letter confirming his resignation as of 4 July 2021.

Item 3 Information on the recruitment procedure of the SESAR 3 Executive Director

The Chairperson informed the Board Members that the process for selecting and appointing the future Executive Director has started. The vacancy notice has been approved by written procedure on 11 June.

DG MOVE has launched the request for publication, which should occur around mid-July, after the College has approved it and the text has been translated.

The Call for candidatures will be open until mid-September.

▷ Conclusions on item 3

- The Board took note of the information provided by the EC.

Item 4 Initiation of the appointment of the SJU Executive Director ad interim

The Chairperson continued by saying that an interim Executive Director should be appointed from 5 July until the arrival of a newly appointed Executive Director.

He added that his mandate will not be a 'business as usual mandate', because the interim will also have to drive and oversee the set-up of the future SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking and to support the formation of the new partnership. He will be supported by a well prepared Management team.

He asked the Chief Administration Affairs to briefly explain the administrative process for appointing the interim Director.

Mr Calvo explained that according to article 5.1 of the SJU Statutes, the Administrative Board is the appointing authority for the Executive Director. As the Statues do not make a distinction on the nature of the appointment (ad-Interim / as a result of a selection), the ADB needs to adopt an official decision.

Due to time constraints, this decision should be taken through an urgent written procedure (7 calendar days).

Mr Calvo also asked the Members to provide a feedback as soon as possible to allow a smooth transition from the current ED to the ad interim.

Mr Hololei explained that, in selecting the preferred candidate, the EC had to take into accounts several elements, among others, the EU citizenship.

After several consultations, the EC decided to propose Mr Richard Frizon for the position of ED ad interim.

Mr Hololei summarised the essential attributes relevant for the proposal of Mr Frizon. He has held the position of Chief Financial Officer since January 2020.

He has acquired a solid knowledge of the financial process of the EU bodies, as he served as budgetary manager in the European Research Council Executive Agency and previously as financial officer in the EC DG CNECT and in the European Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. This background will be instrumental to lead the SJU in an efficient, rigorous and transparent manner in the coming months and to succeed in the challenging task to set up the SESAR 3 JU.

The EC also trusts that the SJU management team and, in particular the deputy Executive Director, will provide the necessary professional support.

Mr Frizon thanked the Chairperson for the trust demonstrated and expressed his willingness to accept the position, mindful of the fact that the SJU is working efficiently and the SJU teams are all committed to the success of SESAR. He added that times ahead will be challenging as there will be three transitions: the first, the legal and administrative transition from the current JU to the new one, with the support of

the transition group lead by Mr Calvo; the second, from SESAR 2020 to SESAR 3, for which Mr Frizon has been coordinating the preparation of the future Multi-annual Work Programme; third, transition to a new Executive Director. In supporting the delivery of these transitions he hoped to be able to count on the rest of the SJU management team, including, the extensive experience of Mr Hotham as deputy Executive Director.

Mr Frizon took the opportunity to thank Mr Guillermet for his bright leadership and personal commitment to the SESAR project and the SJU. He commented that he would do his best to continue the legacy and pass it to the next Executive Director.

The Chairperson invited the Board Members to ask questions about the candidate or express their opinions about the appointment.

No representative intervened.

The Chairperson asked Mr Frizon to leave the meeting, while he requested Mr Guillermet to provide the Board with a quick assessment of the candidate's performance as CFO in the SJU and his potential to take up the position of the ED ad interim.

Mr Guillermet confirmed having full confidence in Mr Frizon's ability to manage the transition. As Chief responsible for Finance, for the coordination of the budget preparation and execution, for planning and reporting activities, and, more recently, in charge of the coordination activities to prepare the MAWP, he has the necessary skills and experience to be successful in the assignment.

Since he has joined the organisation, Mr Frizon has been performing very highly, both in terms of delivering and engaging with the SJU teams and with relevant stakeholders. Also thanks to his attitude of team player and personal characteristics, he represents a good choice for the future of SESAR and the SJU.

Mr Hololei then announced that an urgent written procedure of 7 days would be launched after the Board meeting to adopt the Board's decision to appoint the interim Executive Director and instructed the SJU HR department to take care of all the administrative formalities.

He thanked the Board for the support and ask them and the whole SESAR JU team to give all their support to the interim ED during the coming months. He assured that the Commission will also fully support the interim Director and his team.

▷ Conclusions on item 4

- The Board took note of the information provided by Mr Hololei, by Mr Frizon and by Mr Guillermet.

Item 5 Word of the departing Executive Director

The Chairperson stated that the SESAR project has always been in constant progression and is currently experiencing times of changes, in particular in the top management as Mr Guillermet is stepping down from the position of ED to take up the position of Director General of DSNA.

The Chairperson expressed gratitude for the guidance, support, inspiration provided by Mr Guillermet during the seven years where he headed the SESAR JU.

Recognised the professional and managerial skills during Mr Guillermet's successful career, started in DSNA, continued in Eurocontrol and then in the SESAR JU.

Among the major accomplishments, Mr Hololei mentioned: two major updates of the European Master Plan, integration of Drones as part of the JU work, cooperation agreements with third countries, three editions of the SESAR Solutions catalogue, many successful communication initiatives, facing the major crisis of COVID-19, laying down the foundations of SESAR 3 partnership.

He thanked Mr Guillermet for the fruitful cooperation during these years, during which Mr Guillermet demonstrated being a true believer in the European project and wished all the best for his new position in DSNA.

Mr Guillermet thanked the Chairperson and the Board Members for trust demonstrated since in 2014 in assigning him the guidance of the SJU and throughout all these years. He mentioned the major milestones achieved during his mandate: closing SESAR 1, preparing S2020 and SESAR 3; difficulties with crisis of IOP, the COVID-19 crisis; many success through communication activities, the MP and the AAS.

He added that, along the years, SESAR has become a “brand” internationally recognised.

He stressed the importance he attached to the SJU organisation and its staff, thanking them for their commitment. He also thanked Mr Hololei for his guidance and support and Mr Brennan for the very fruitful cooperation.

He also thanked all Members of the Board for all work done together to deliver the SESAR project to the EU citizens.

Mr Guillermet concluded by saying that he is looking forward to continue the good cooperation with the EC and Eurocontrol and the Industry in making aviation more sustainable and safer.

Mr Brennan expressed Eurocontrol’s appreciation for Mr Guillermet’s work. His European perspective will be very important in heading a very important ANSP, where his experience and knowledge of technology will be highly valuable. Mr Brennan took the opportunity to express Eurocontrol’s continued full support to the SJU.

Mr Gallego acknowledged the excellent job made by Mr Guillermet and his spirit of cooperation. SESAR is a project that demands the best of all partners and Mr Guillermet was a key contributor.

Mr Gallego continued by saying that he has been Member of the Board since its inception and will be replaced by Mr Ramon Tarrech.

He thanked Mr Hololei, Mr Brennan, all the Board Members, in particular Mr Lallouette for the work done together.

Mr Gallego will continue supporting INDRA and SESAR as an external advisor.

On behalf of the AU, Mr Buono thanked Mr Guillermet for his effort in being on the modernisation’s side and to have worked for changes and improvements of the ATM system. He wished him to keep fighting for the same objectives also in the new position.

Mr Lallouette wished Mr Guillermet the best of success in his new job.

He announced that he will soon go to retirement and expressed gratitude for the good cooperation during the past years with Mr Hololei, Mr Brennan, Mr Guillermet and all Members. He is confident about the success that SESAR 3 will have in the future.

▷ Conclusions on item 5

- The Board took note of the information provided by Mr Guillermet and the Board Members.

The proposed ADB meeting dates in 2021 are:

- ADB(M) 054 Thursday 7 October

Done in Brussels, 23/06/2021.

Chairperson
Mr Henrik Hololei

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Hololei', with a stylized, cursive script.

Secretary
Ms Ilaria Vazzoler

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ilaria Vazzoler', with a cursive script.